



State Water Resources Control Board P.O. Box 100 Sacramento, CA 95812-0100

Emailed: waterrightsfees@waterboards.ca.gov

Re: Water Rights Fees for Temporary Water Rights Permits for Underground

Storage

To Whom It May Concern:

The Yolo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (District) attended the June 14, 2018 Water Rights Fee Stakeholder Meeting that the Division of Water Rights (Division) staff held to discuss future fee structure ideas for temporary water rights permits for underground storage (Program). District staff appreciated the opportunity to better understand the effort and costs expended as part of the Program, along with the opportunity to comment on how increased water rights fees will impact the District's participation. As was discussed at the meeting, the District would like to provide an alternative fee structure for the Division's consideration.

It is recommended that the Division consider a two-pronged fee structure to reflect the unique and dynamic nature of the Program and availability of excess flows for groundwater recharge. Since the Division's effort is primarily invested in the first year of a permit request and is based on the total diversion requested, the District is recommending an initial permit fee and a renewal permit fee. Both the initial and renewal permit fees will have a base application fee and a calculated diversion fee. The initial permit diversion fee will be based on the total acre-feet (AF) of water requested for diversion, which will be collected during the application process along with the application fee. If the requests in consecutive years have the same point of diversion and diversion quantity, the renewal permit fee will apply, and the diversion fee will be based on the total AF of water diverted, which will be collected after the diversion period ends.

Tim O'Halloran General Manager

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The recommended two-pronged fee structure is articulated below:

- 1. Initial Permit Fee: \$5,000 application fee + \$0.10/AF diversion requested
- 2. Renewal Permit Fee: \$1,500 application fee + \$0.20/AF actual flows diverted

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For successful groundwater recharge of California's subbasins, the Program needs to economically incentivize participation and maintain flexibility.

Thank you for your consideration,

Kristin Sicke

Assistant General Manager